

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2381

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TU CY GR

SUBJ: CAGLAYANGIL AND DENKTAS ECOMMENT ON INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

REF: ATHENS 1158

1. UPON HIS DEPARTURE FOR BAGHDAD FEBRUARY 4 FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL TOLD REPORTERS THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIM AND GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF AN OPEN AGENDA. THIS STATEMENT APPARENTLY LED BITSIOS TO TELL THE PRESS IN ATHENS FEB 5 THAT AT BRUSSELS HE AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD AGREED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN WITH THE GEOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS (REFTEL). CAGLAYANGIL IN TURN RELEASED A STATEMENT THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 6 IN BAGHDAD SAYING THAT IF PRESS REPORTS WERE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF BITFROS' STATEMENT HE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY PROVISION

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TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE ISSUE OF TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENT.

CAGLAYANGIL SAID THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN WRITTEN AND SIGNED BY BOTH MINISTERS AND THAT THEY HAD AGREED TO KEEP IT SECRET; HOWEVER, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS NOW PROPOSING TO BITSIOS THAT THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT BE PUBLISHED. "ONLY IN THIS WAY" CAGLAYANGIL SAID, "WILL IT BE KNOWN WHO IS DISTORTING THE CONTENTS OF THE ACCORD.

2. TURKISH CYPRIOT

LEADER DENKTASH SAID UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN ANKARA FEBRUARY 8 THAT HE HAD "COME TO ANKARA FOR AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY PRIOR TO THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WHICH WILL BEGIN IN VIENNA ON FEB. 17." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT POSITION WOULD DELAY THE BEGINNING OF THE VIENNA TALKS, DENKTASH SAID THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY AND POSITIVELY TO SECGEN WALDHEIM'S INVITATION TO MEET IN VIENNA FEB. 17. HE SAID IT APPEARS THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WISH TO "BARO N" PRIOR TO GOING TO VIENNA, BUT THAT WALDHEIM'S INVITATION DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY PROVISION FOR BARGAINING. HE CONTINUED," WE SHALL WAIT TO MEET WITH THEM IN VIENNA. WE ARE GOING TO VIENNA WITH AN OPEN HEART AND TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN OPEN AGENDA.. LET THE CYPRIOT GREEKS BRING WHATEVER THEY WANT. WE ARE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING."

3. COMMENT: FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF THE TEXT OF THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT, IT APPEARS TO US THAT CAGLAYANGIL MAY BE, FROM A PURELY FACTUAL POINT OF VIEW, ONE UP IN HIS EXCHANGE WITH BITSIOS. FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ANGLE, THE TURKS SEEM TO BE GOING EQUALLY WELL. AFTER BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE ABOUT THE VIENNA TALKS ALL DURING JANUARY, THEY HAVE SUDDENLY TAKEN THE OFFENSIVE. BOTH CAGLAYANGIL AND DENKTASH'S WEEKEND STATEMENTS REFLECT A REFRESHING (AND ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED) AWARENESS BY THE TURKISH SIDE OF THE IMPOHZNANCE OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OPINION ON THEHPYPRUS QUYITION. IF THE TALKS DO ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE MORE OR LESS ON SCHEDULE, WE WILL SEE WHETHER OR NOT THIS APPARENT AWARENESS IS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO RESULT

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IN A MORE FLEXIBLE TURKISH-CYPRIOT STANCE DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS.
BERGUS

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